INDEX TO SEARCH, PREVIEW, AND DOWNLOAD FEATURES

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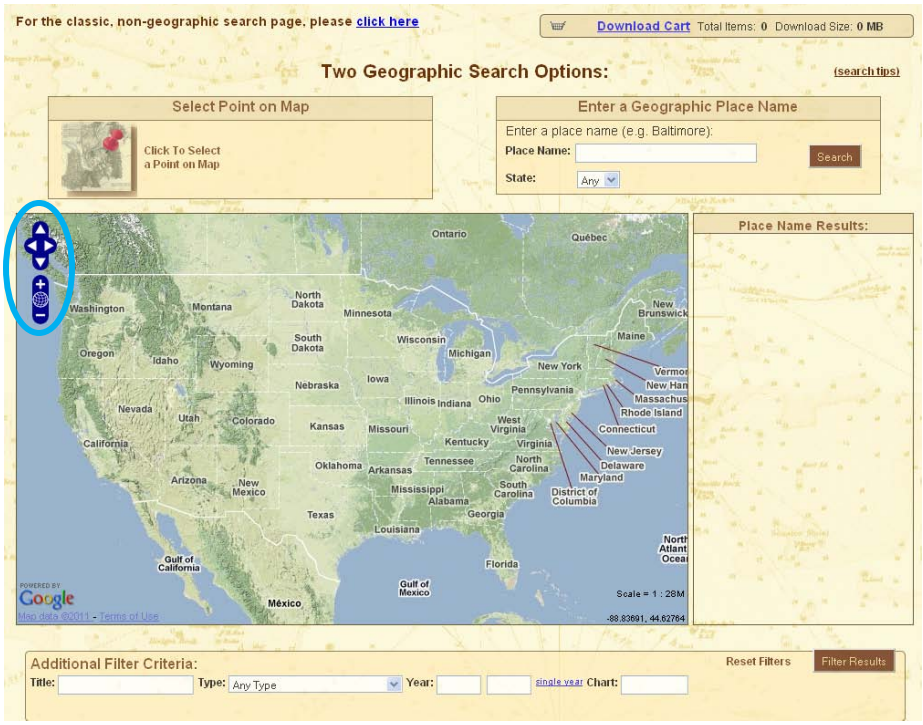
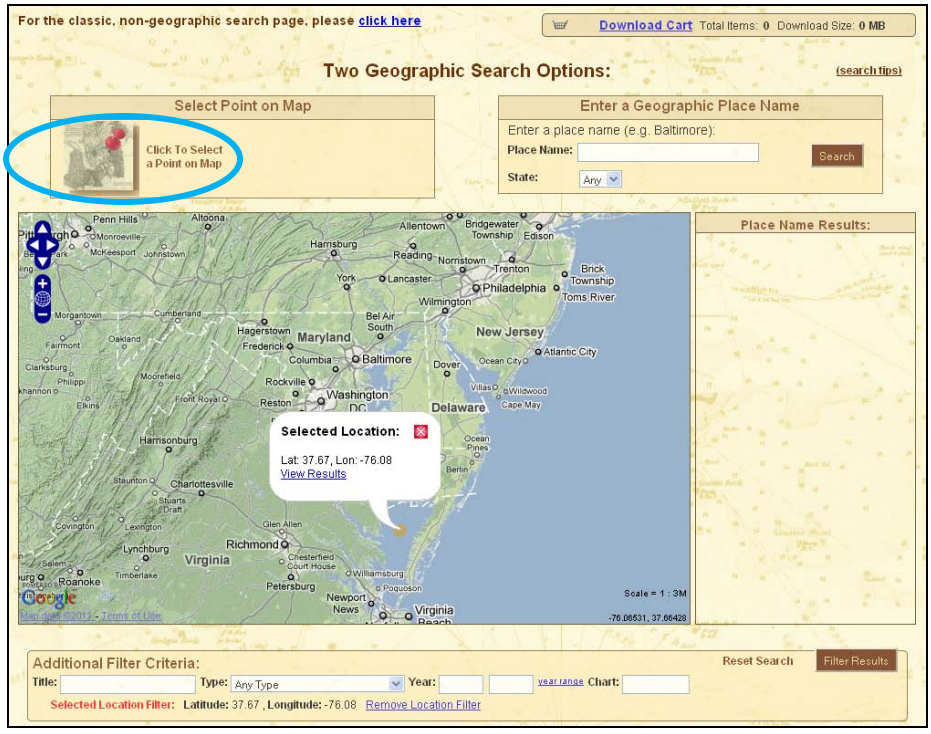
STEP-BY-STEP SEARCH, PREVIEW, AND DOWNLOAD INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Your initial visit to the Geographic Search page looks like the image to the right (if not, please refresh your browser).

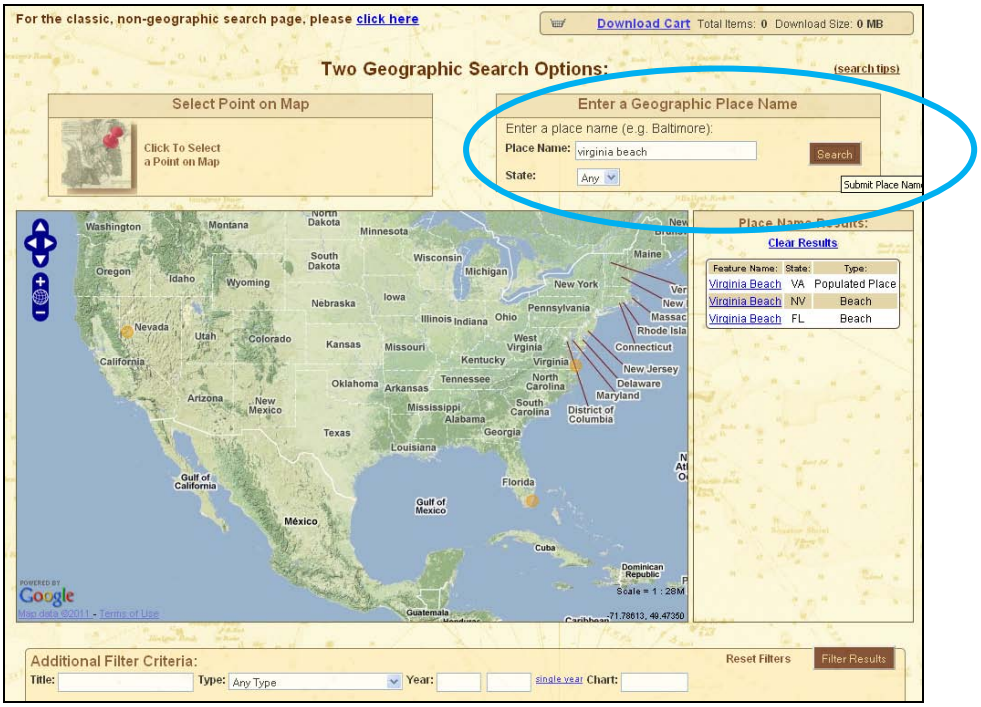
At this stage, you may (1) use the Pan and Zoom tools on the map to find your local area of interest and then use the Select Point on Map tool or (2) keep the default map of the contiguous U.S. and begin a search for historic maps and charts using one of the two geographic search options.



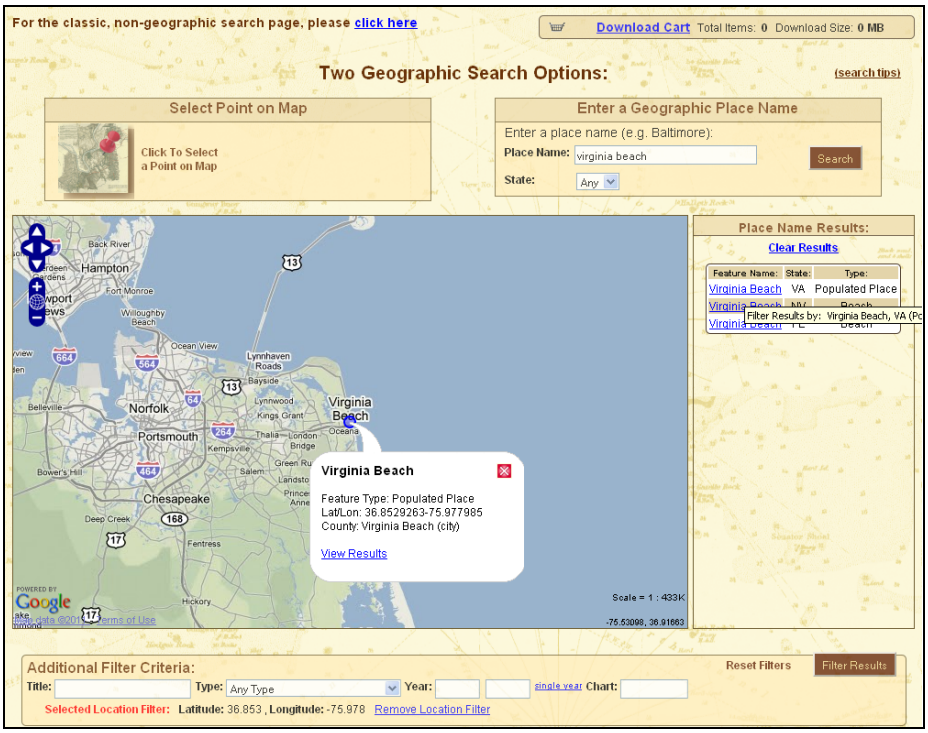
Step 2: To begin a search by location, go to the "Select Point on Map" option and click on the red pushpin button graphic. Once the button is selected, click a point on the map below. A pop-up window will appear with your geographic position in latitude/longitude. Below that position is a link to "View Results." Click on the "View Results" link to jump down the page and view a list of historic maps and charts that cover your search location (see Step 4 for results).



Step 3: To begin a search by geographic place name, go the Enter a Geographic Place Name box and begin typing your name of interest. As you type, geographic names as recorded in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS, see http://geonames.usgs.gov) will begin to automatically populate. You can select one of these names and hit the "Search" button to execute your place name search.

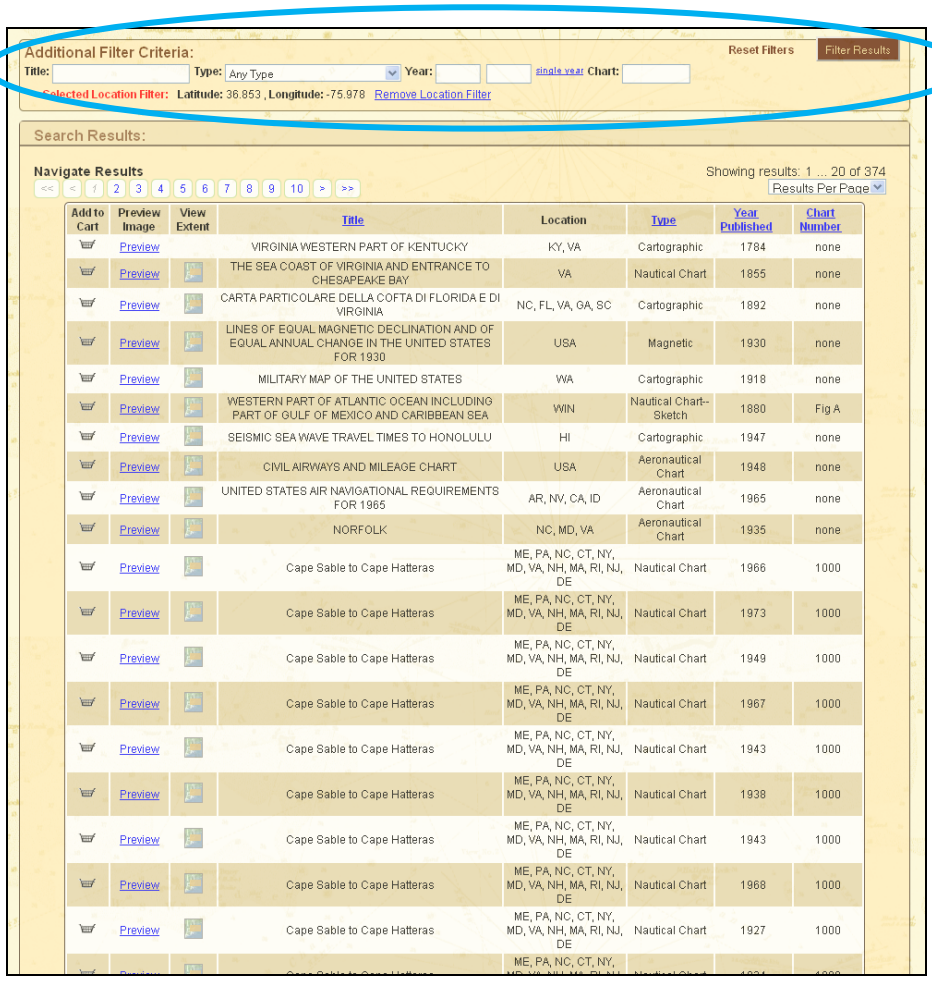


Alternatively, you can wait for the auto-populate window to disappear and select "Search" on the name you entered. In this example, "Virginia Beach" was entered. A click on the "Search" button populated the Place Name Results window with Virginia Beach names in GNIS. Location dots also appeared on the map. Select one of the place names to zoom. Click on the "View Results" to jump down the page and view a list of historic maps and charts that cover your place name search.

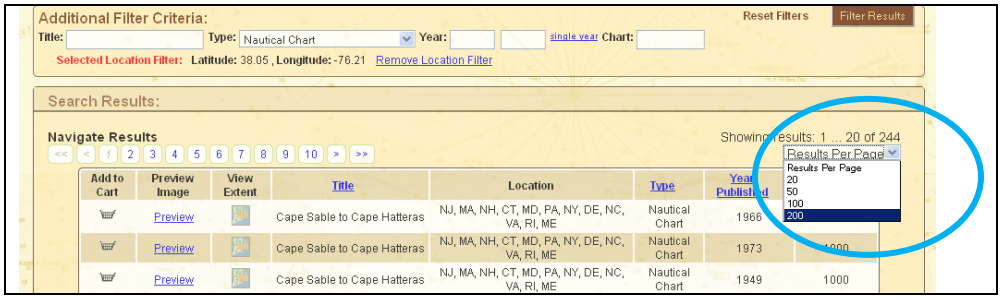


Step 4: There are several features available to refine and sort your results list.

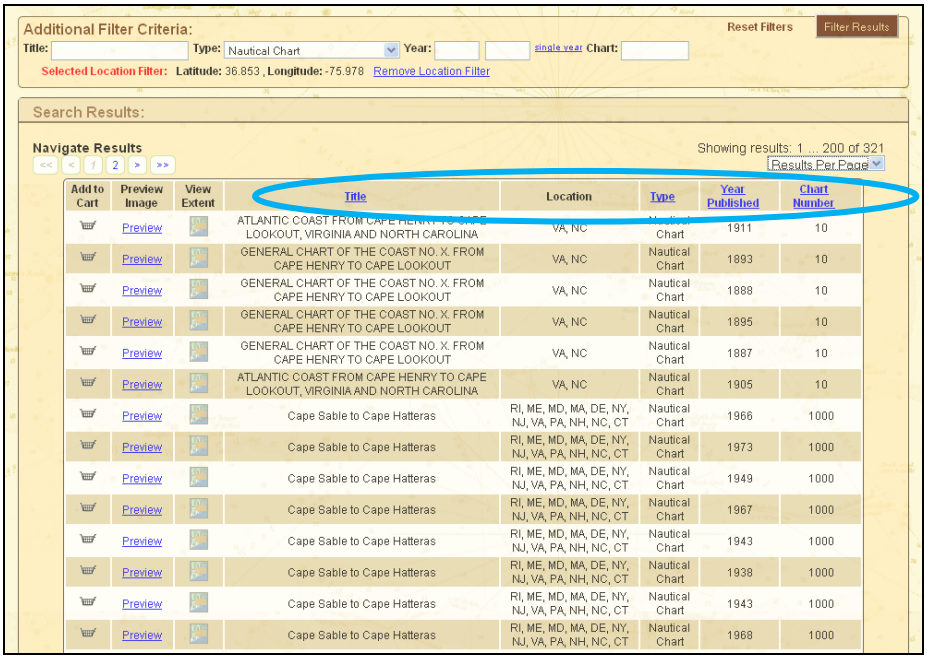
Enter information into the "Additional Filter Criteria" and click the "Filter Results" button to refine your results. A word entered into the Title box will filter your results to include only maps and charts that include your word in the map/chart title. You can also filter results by Type (a dropdown menu offers the various types of maps and charts in the Collection), Range of Years, and Chart Number (results yield old and new numbering scheme). Click on the Reset Filters link to clear the settings in "Additional Filter Criteria."



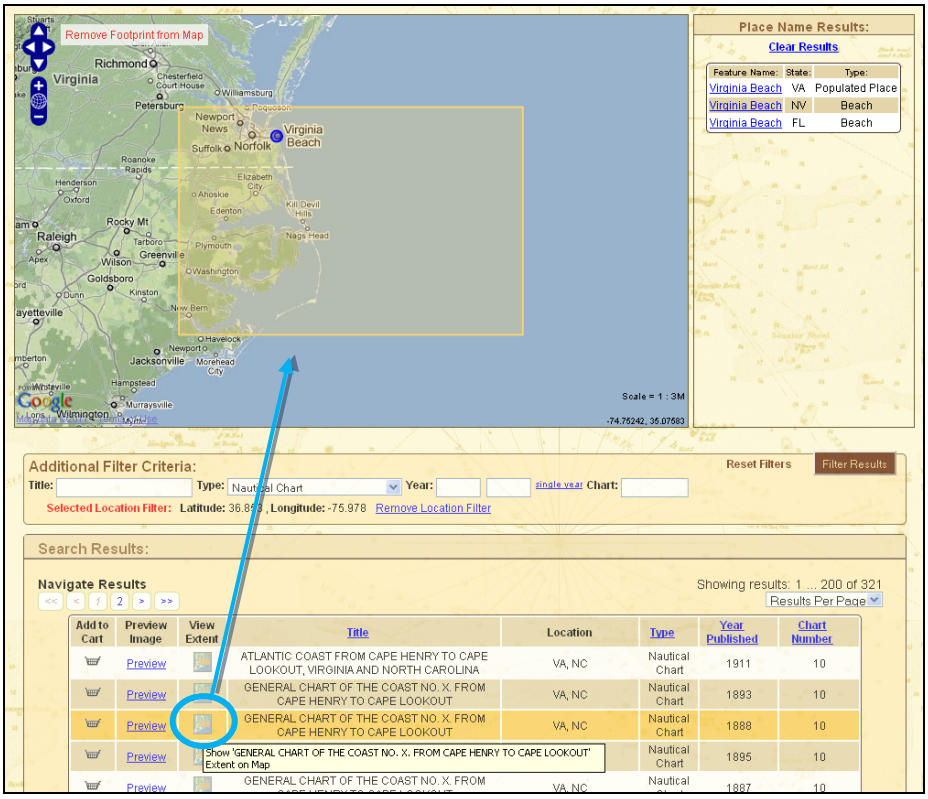
Step 5: To view a longer listing of search results on the same Web page, adjust the number of results using the "Results Per Page" dropdown menu.



Step 6: To sort your search results, click on the blue, underlined column headings. You can sort by Title, Type, Year Published, or Chart Number.

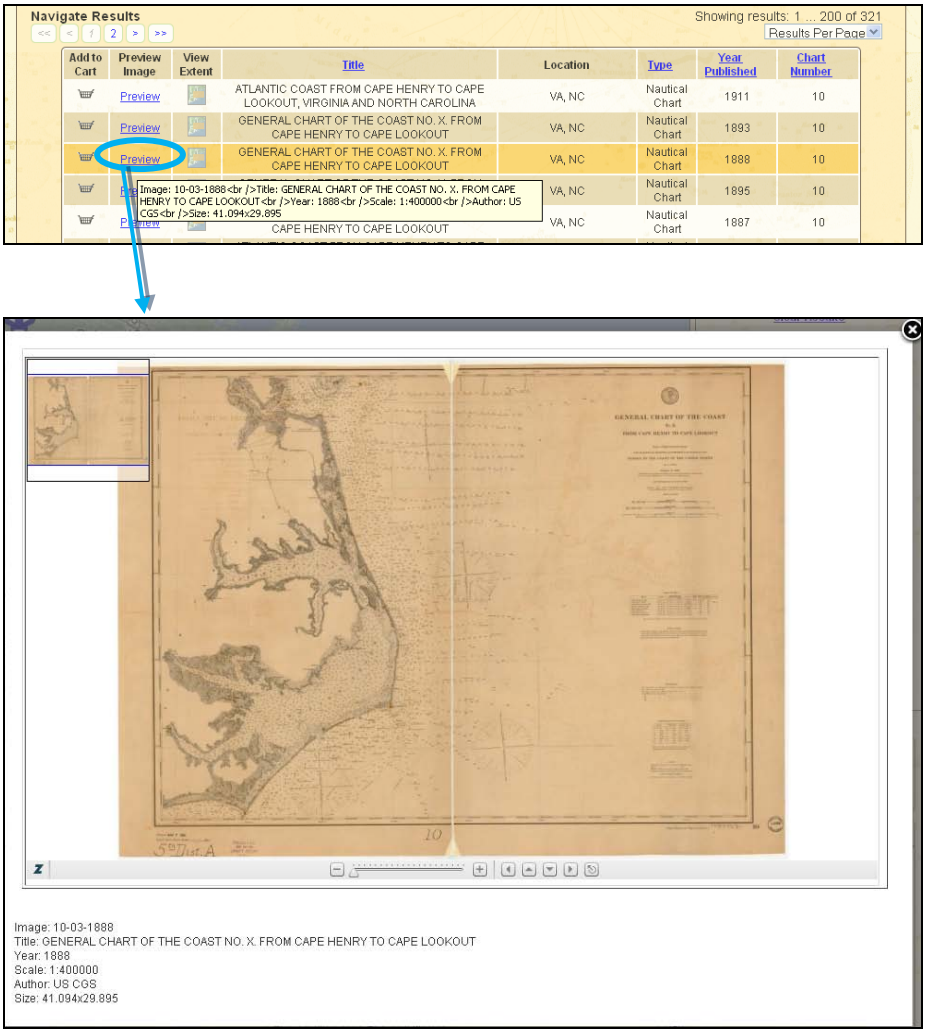


Step 7: To view the geographic extent of the scanned image on the map, select the View Extent button associated with your map/chart of interest. The map contains the general geographic footprint (bounding box) of the map/chart and the record is highlighted in yellow in the Search Results.

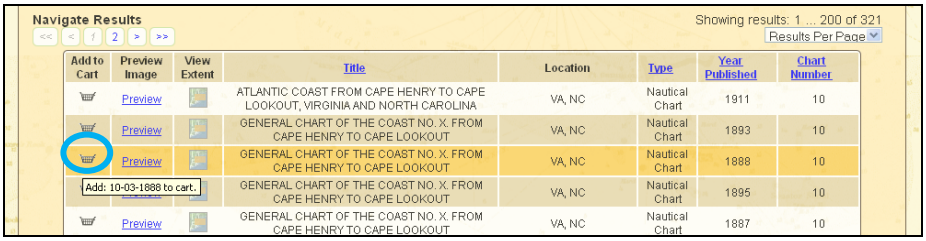


Step 8: To preview an image, select the Preview button associated with your chart of interest. A pop-up window will appear that displays the chart with some background information (image, title, year, scale, author, and size in inches). You can zoom and pan around this preview image. Select the “Close” link on the upper right of the pop-up window or the ESC key on your keyboard to exit the preview and return to the Search page.

Note that supplemental information from our database is populated below the preview image. You can also use the Pan and Zoom tools to navigate around the image.

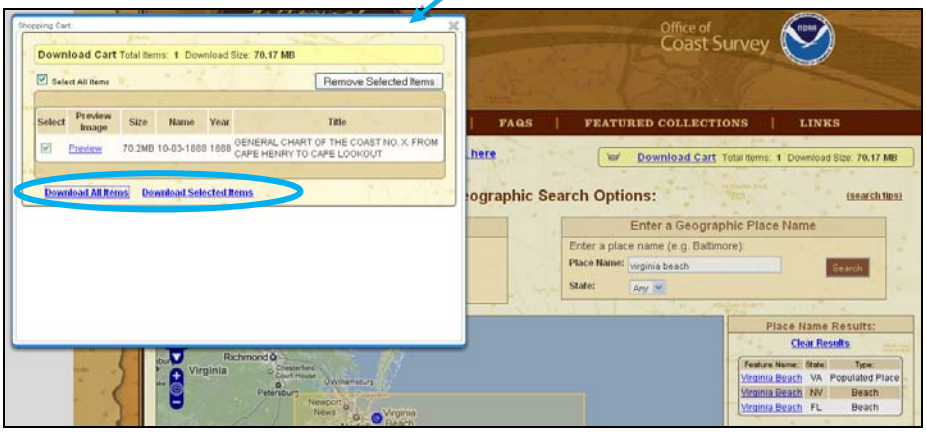


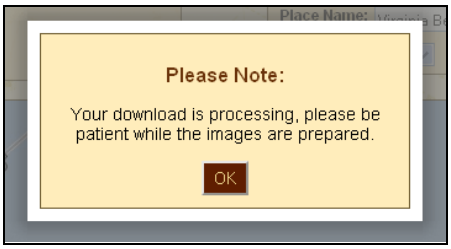
Step 9: To download a JPG image, go to the Search Results and click on the shopping cart icon associated with your chart/map of interest.



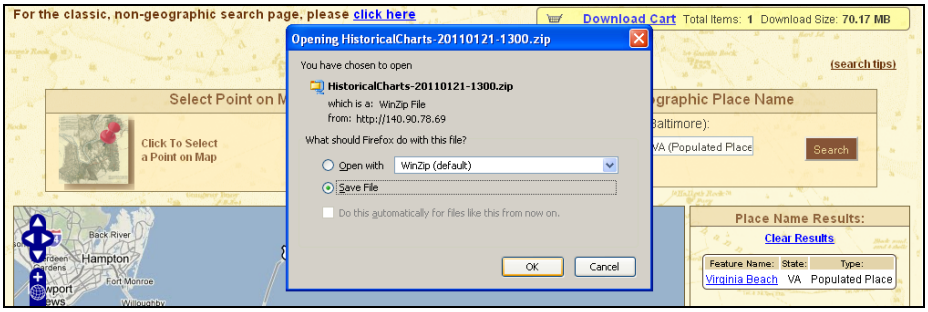
You will see that the Download Cart at the top of your browser window displays the total items in your cart as well as the total file size. To view the contents of your shopping cart and download your images, click on the "Download Cart" link.

A pop-up window will appear displaying the contents of your cart. Select the "Download All Items" or select a subset of images in your cart and click the "Download Selected Items" link. We recommend keeping your download file size limit to less than 100MB. You will receive a WinZip file containing your JPG images as well as a text file containing supplemental information from our database.





Once downloaded to your computer and unzipped (see www.winzip.com for instructions), the JPG images can be opened in a variety of image viewing software; however, some viewers have issues opening large files. If you have this problem, you should try opening the file again with a different image viewer.



SEARCH TIPS

Searching by Geographic Extent in the Map-Based Search
Approximately 80% of the charts and maps in the Collection have geographic extents that can be used for searching. If you believe you are not receiving all maps and charts of interest using the Map-based Search, please try the Traditional Search options, such as chart title, state/region, or even year/range of years. A Traditional Search can be accomplished in the Map-based Search page by Removing Geographic Filters and entering additional criteria in Step 3 (click Filter to execute new search).

Searching by Chart Title in the Traditional Search
Information entered into the Chart Title field searches against the title of the map or chart. Frequently, the title of a chart is descriptive of its geographic extent and may not include the most prominent city or geographic place name. If you are looking for all maps /charts that cover a particular place, try the Map-based Search option for improved results.

The Chart Title search performs an exact match with the chart title recorded in our database. When using this search option for long names, we recommend entering fewer words (or even partial words) to get the maximum number of results. It is also recommended to leave off generics on geographic place names, such as "Lake" or "River."

For example, if you're looking for charts that cover Seattle Harbor, we recommend searching for "Seattle," which will give you all maps/charts with Seattle AND Seattle Harbor in the title.

Searching by Chart Number
Searching by chart number is your best bet to retrieve a full map or chart series. We have included logical links to previous chart numbering schemes, so results from a search by chart number will yield both older and more recent historical charts of a series.

Filtering and Sorting Results
Use more than one search option to refine your search results. For example, you can search do a chart title search for "Charleston" to get all maps and charts with the name "Charleston" in the title; however, if you're only interested in charts from 1861, use the Year search option as well to refine the results.